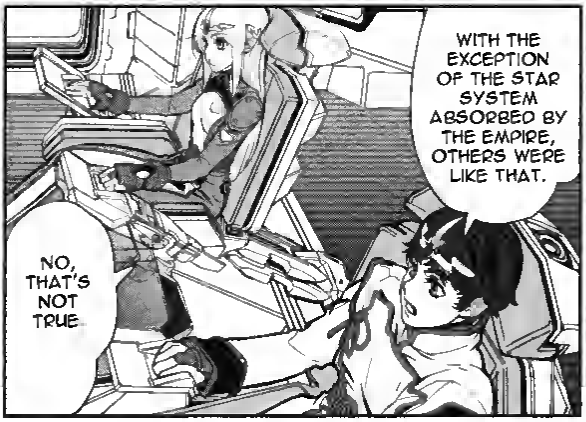
第8話

I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT THIS
AN UNINHABITABLE STAR BEING A TERRITORY HUH


WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE STAR SYSTEM ABSORBED BY THE EMPIRE, OTHERS WERE LIKE THAT.
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE

AS A PERSON WHO LIVED ON THE GROUND, YOU BELIEVE THAT.

THERE WERE STARS THAT HAD PEOPLE LIVING IN TERRITORIES.
IF I'M EVER RELEASED FROM MY IMPERIAL OBLIGATIONS.
I'M THINKING OF TOYING AROUND WITH THE SECOND PLANET.
SUITING THE NAME PARYUN, I WANT TO TRY RAISING ROSES.
THAT SOUNDS LOVELY
INDEED.
2

JINTO
YES?
I GIVE YOU MY THANKS.
WHY?
BECAUSE YOU ARE BEING CONSIDERATE OF ME?

YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS IS APPRECIATED.
IT'S HARD TO SAY THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO PUT IT.

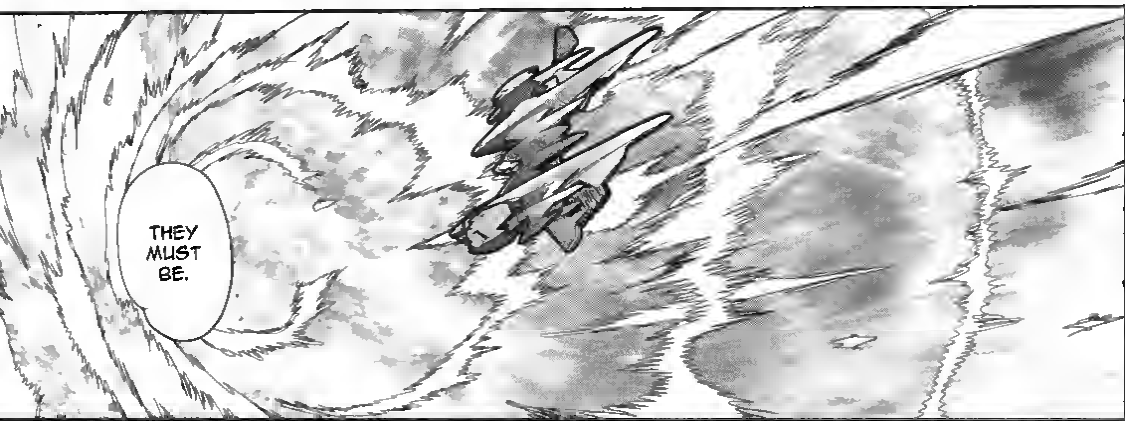
WELL SORRY FOR BEING AWKWARD.
DON'T BE MAD.
I AM...
REGRET-FUL.
I AM TELLING YOU I AM THANKFUL.
I'M NOT ANGRY.

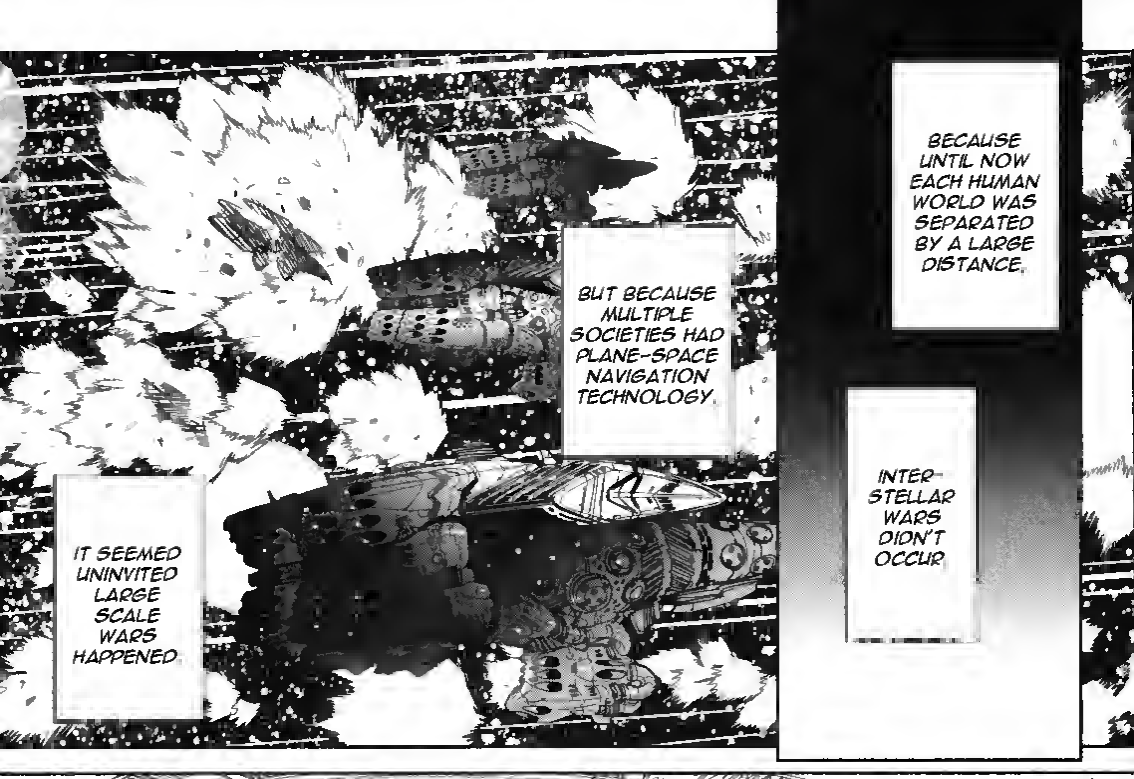
I WAS NOT USEFUL DURING THAT CRUCIAL MOMENT...
YOU MEAN I WAS NOT USEFUL.
RIGHT NOW I'M RELYING ON YOU.
EH?
HOW MEAN.
.....
OR DO YOU MEAN MY LIFE CAN'T
SATISFY YOUR IMPERIAL OBLIGA-TIONS?

YOU'RE RIGHT.
.....

YOU MUST FOR-GIVE ME

YOU'RE RIGHT.
IF YOU ARE THINK-ING ABOUT THAT SHIP, DON'T WORRY THEY ARE FINE.


THEY MUST BE.


BECAUSE UNTIL NOW EACH HUMAN WORLD WAS SEPARATED BY A LARGE DISTANCE.
INTER-STELLAR WARS DIDN'T OCCUR.
BUT BECAUSE MULTIPLE SOCIETIES HAD PLANE-SPACE NAVIGATION TECHNOLOGY.
IT SEEMED UNINVITED LARGE SCALE WARS HAPPENED.

THEN THE ABH UNIFIED MANKIND'S SOCIETIES
AND ADOPTED A THEORY OF MONOPOLI-ZATION THROUGH FORCE.

LESS THAN 30,000 ABH
CON-TROLLED OVER 100 BILLION HUMANS
IT'S EXACTLY THE SORT OF NATURE THAT'S NOTHING SHORT OF
ARRO-GANT AND RECK-LESS.

DISCOV-
ERED
HOW TO
UTILIZE
PLANE-
SPACE.
IN THE
SUMEI
STAR
SYSTEM
BY MERE
CHANCE.
BUT UN-
FORTU-
NATELY
FOR
THEM
ONE
HUMAN
COLONY

IT WAS
SHARED
WITH 20
OTHER
STAR
SYSTEMS.
THE
PRICE
WAS
LARGE,
BUT
THE
PEOPLE
OF SUMEI
DID NOT
THINK OF
MONOPO-
LIZING THE
TECHNIQUE.

IN THE
FIRST
PLACE, AN
EXTREMELY
SIMPLE
POLITICAL
SITUATION IS
A SITUATION
WITH ONLY
ONE FORM OF
GOVERNMENT.
THE
UNIVERSE'S
POLITICAL
SITUATION
SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
EXTREMELY
SIMPLE.
THE ABH
ASSERTED
THIS.

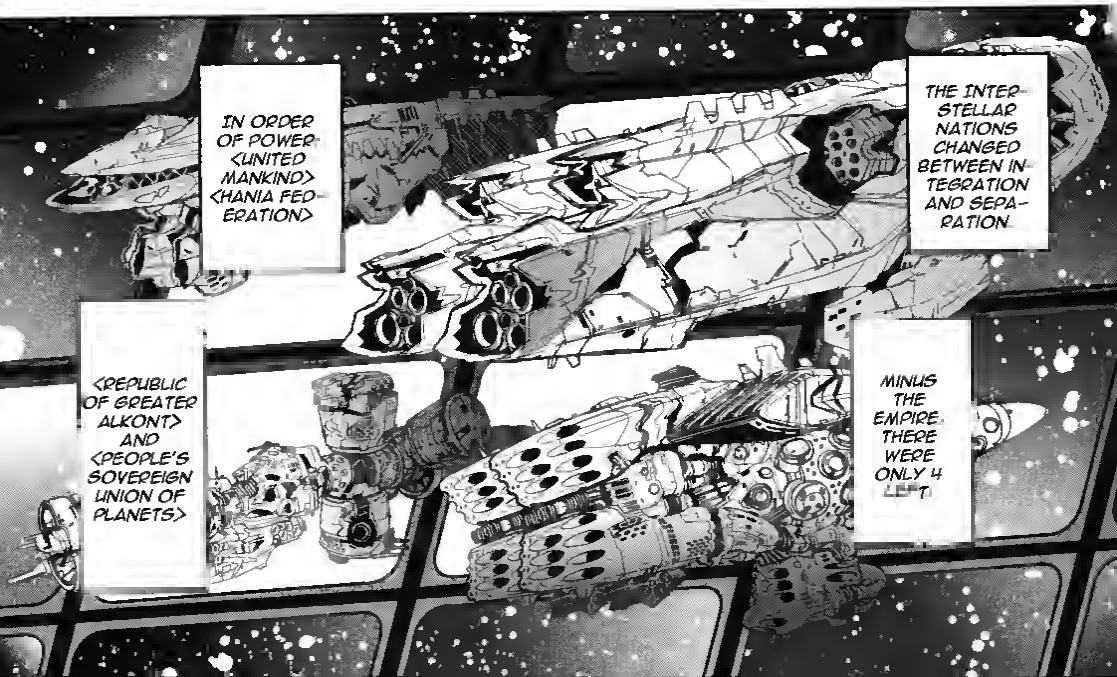
THE ABH FELT
THAT THE
SUMEI STAR
SYSTEM'S
COURSE OF
ACTION
WOULD
UNNECES-
SARILY
COMPLI-
CATE THE
UNIVERSE'S
POLITICAL
SITUATION.
WHICH
MADE
THEM
UNCOM-
FORT-
ABLE

BECAUSE THEY WERE HAPPY BEING ON LAND.
THE LAND PEOPLE DID NOT CARE FOR SPACE
THE RACE THAT HELD THE UNIVERSE WAS NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO THE ABH.
THE INSISTENCE OF THE EMPIRE WAS NOT POPULAR
UNFORTUNATELY,

THERE WERE TIMES THAT THE EMPIRE BECAME PARTY TO THE CONFLICT.
DUE TO UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES,
HUMAN SOCIETY BECAME FEARFUL OF THE ABH

DISMANTLED IT, AND UNTIL THEIR STAR SYSTEM WAS INCORPO-RATED INTO THE EMPIRE,
THEN ONE DAY, RE-FUSING TO COMPRO-MISE, THE ABH TOOK UP ARMS,
THEY WOULD NOT CEASE THE FIGHTING.
STOLE THE ENEMY COUNTRY'S PLANE-SPACE NAVIGATION TECHNOLOGY,

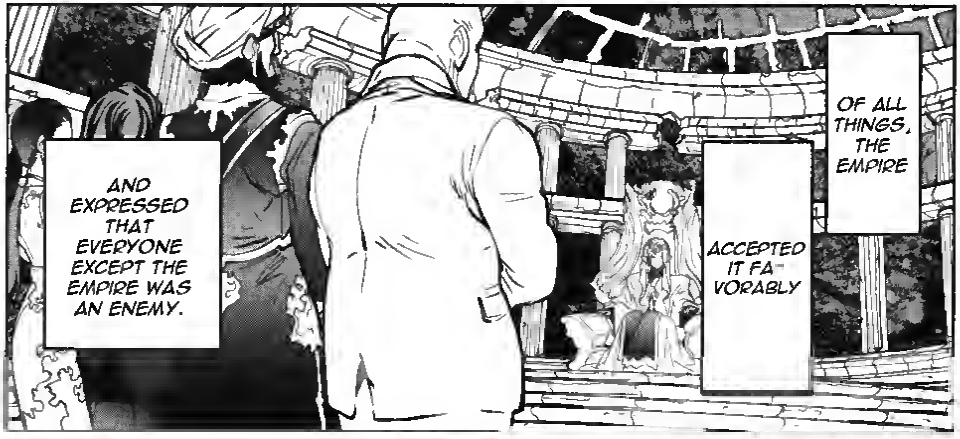
MANY NOBLES SCAT-TERED INTO THE UNIVERSE
INVOLVING THE EM-PEROR AND 7 CROWN PRINCES.
THIS INTENSE VOLITION WAS ACCOMPA-NIED BY A PROPER REACTION

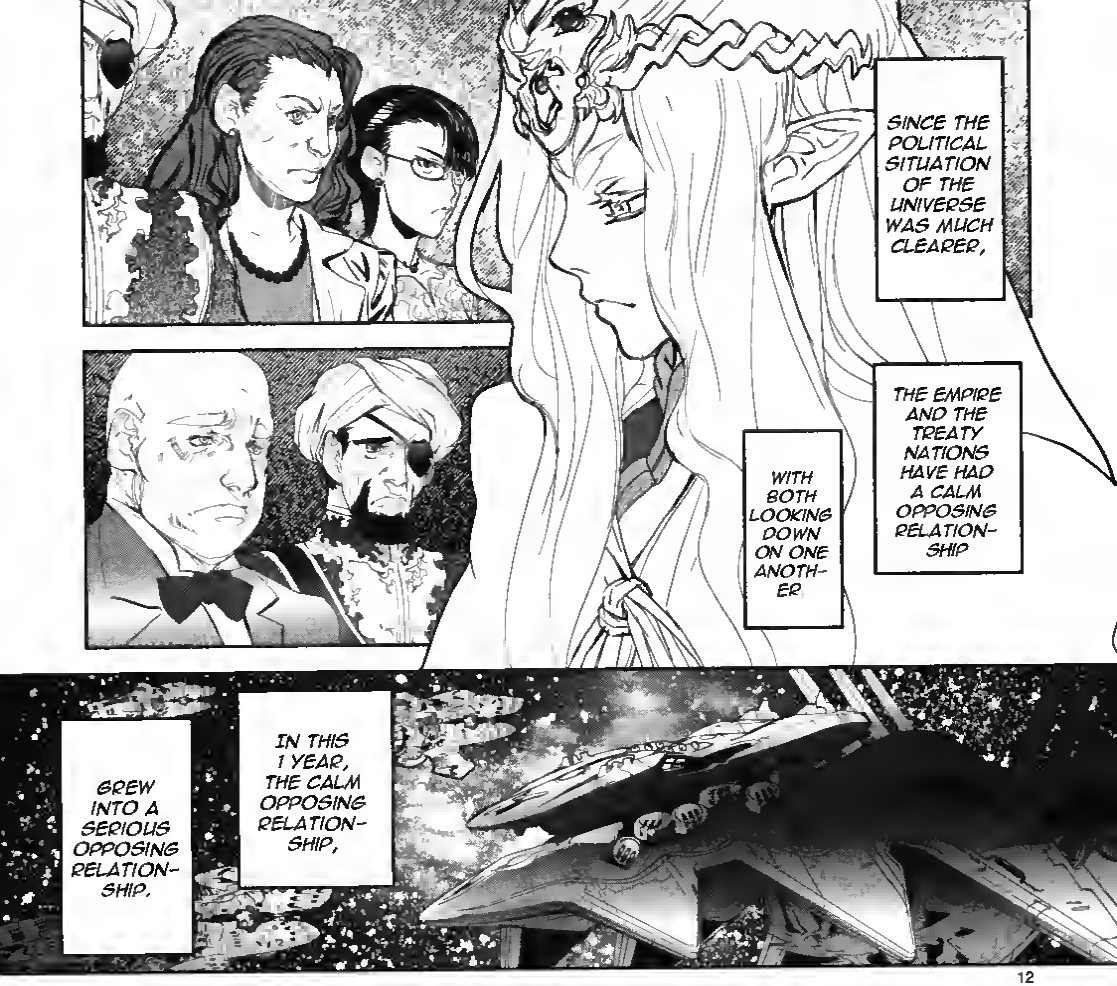

IN ORDER OF POWER <UNITED MANKIND> <HANIA FED-ERATION>
THE INTER-STELLAR NATIONS CHANGED BETWEEN IN-TEGRATION AND SEPA-RATION
<REPUBLIC OF GREATER ALKONT> AND <PEOPLE'S SOVEREIGN UNION OF PLANETS>
MINUS THE EMPIRE. THERE WERE ONLY 4 LEFT.

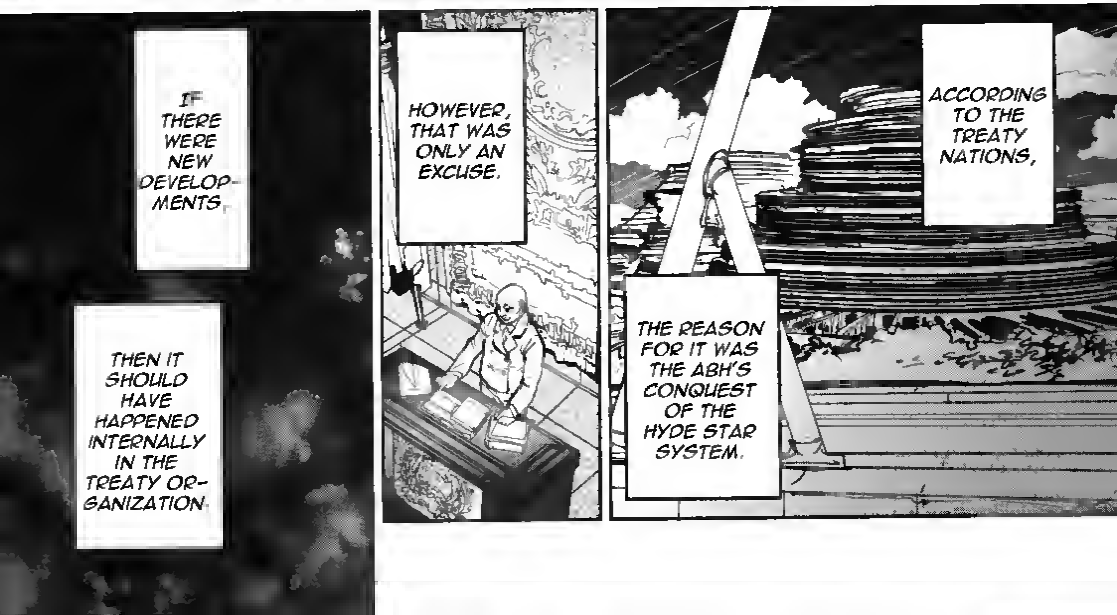
AND MADE A MILITARY ALLIANCE.
12 YEARS AGO, THE FOUR NATIONS SET ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES, SIGNED A TREATY.

THE EMPIRE SIMPLY CALLED IT THE <FOUR NATIONS ALLIANCE>.
THE TREATY WAS CALLED THE <NOVA-SICILIA TREATY>.

IN HOPES THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO A RECONCILIATION PLAN.
THE ALLIANCE'S PURPOSE WAS TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE A THREAT TO THE EMPIRE


AND EXPRESSED THAT EVERYONE EXCEPT THE EMPIRE WAS AN ENEMY.
ACCEPTED IT FAVORABLY
OF ALL THINGS, THE EMPIRE


SINCE THE POLITICAL SITUATION OF THE UNIVERSE WAS MUCH CLEARER,
THE EMPIRE AND THE TREATY NATIONS HAVE HAD A CALM OPPOSING RELATION-SHIP
WITH BOTH LOOKING DOWN ON ONE ANOTH-ER.
IN THIS 1 YEAR, THE CALM OPPOSING RELATION-SHIP,
GREW INTO A SERIOUS OPPOSING RELATION-SHIP.


ACCORDING TO THE TREATY NATIONS,
THE REASON FOR IT WAS THE ABH'S CONQUEST OF THE HYDE STAR SYSTEM.
HOWEVER, THAT WAS ONLY AN EXCUSE.
IF THERE WERE NEW DEVELOP-MENTS,
THEN IT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED INTERNALLY IN THE TREATY OR-GANIZATION.

HEY, JINTO.
HRM?
13
DO YOU REMEMBER ME TALKING ABOUT MY BIRTH SECRET?
OF COURSE.
WHY DID SHE SUDDENLY BRING THAT UP?
THIS IS A SECRET THAT NEVER LEAVES THIS ROOM.
NO PROBLEM.
I LOVE SECRETS.

MY GENE DONOR WAS THE CAPTAIN.

EH?

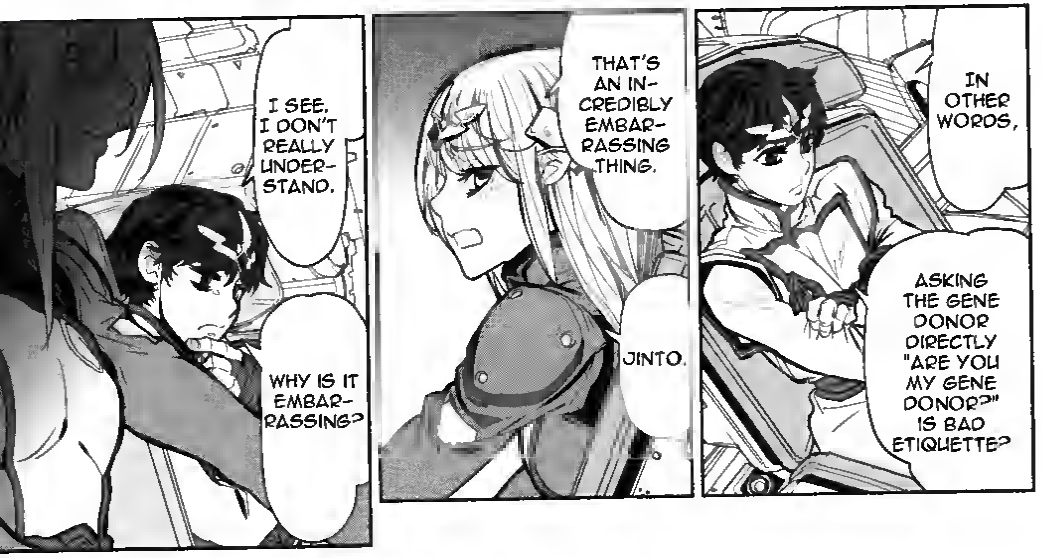
NOT MY MO-THER,
BUT MY GENE DONOR.
HECTO-COMMANDER LEXSHUE IS YOUR MOTHER.
IN OTHER WORDS ...

WAIT.
THAT AT ALL ...
BUT IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE
CUT ME SOME SLACK. I HAVE YET TO PART WITH MY CUSTOMS
<MY CUTE HIGH-NESS>
15
THE CAPTAIN DID CALL HER THAT.
SOMETHING WAS BEING COMMUNICATED THAT WENT BEYOND THAT OF A SENIOR OFFICER AND A SUBORDINATE
AT THAT TIME, I DID FEEL THAT

WHAT DO YOU TAKE THE STAR FORCES FOR? OLD ACQUAINT-ANCES MEAN NOTHING IN IT.
IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN THEY ARE ALONE THOUGH...
GEEZ, HOW COMPLI-CATED.
I'M PROUD TO HAVE HALF OF ME COME FROM THAT PERSON.
PLAKIA LEXSHUE .. IF IT'S THE CAPTAIN...
I KNEW HER SINCE I WAS A CHILD
AND I RESPECTED HER.
16
ABOVE ALL,
I WAS A DAUGH-TER OF LOVE.
SINCE I THOUGHT THE CAPTAIN WAS MY FATHER'S LOVER
IT WAS OKAY.
AND IF THAT WAS IT, I THOUGHT IT WAS FINE

TO THINK THAT THE SEPARATION BETWEEN A BLOOD RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY WAS THAT MUCH.
THAT'S VERY CONSISTENT OF THEM.
IF YOU KNEW HER SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD,
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU INQUIRED ABOUT IT?
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT AN ADULT YET.
WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM MY FATHER...
NO, I MEAN WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER
IF YOU ASKED THE CAPTAIN DIRECTLY?

DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?
YES.
YOU SAID SOMETHING REALLY WEIRD.
THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED ETIQUETTE.
AH...
REALLY?
IS ASKING THE CAPTAIN DIRECTLY REALLY THAT STRANGE?


I SEE. I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND.
WHY IS IT EMBARRASSING?
THAT'S AN INCREDIBLY EMBARRASSING THING.
JINTO.
IN OTHER WORDS,
ASKING THE GENE DONOR DIRECTLY "ARE YOU MY GENE DONOR?" IS BAD ETIQUETTE?

DOES THERE NEED TO BE A REASON FOR IT TO BE EMBARRASSING?
IT'S EMBARRASSING BECAUSE IT'S EMBARRASSING!
ALSO EVEN IF I ASKED, I WOULD NOT GET AN ANSWER.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT...
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN TELL THEIR CHILD THE IDENTITY OF THEIR GENE DONOR IS THE PARENT.
IS THAT THE PROPER ETIQUETTE?
YES.

COMPLICATED.
I DON'T THINK SO.

ONE OF THESE DAYS I WANT TO TAKE YOU TO MY HOME-TOWN.
I WANT TO LET YOU LIVE A FEW YEARS THERE.
IF YOU DO THAT, THEN YOU'LL UN-DERSTAND THE WORD "COMPLI-CATED".
I SEE.
THEN ONCE I AM RELIEVED OF MY IMPERIAL OBLIGATIONS,
PLEASE DO.
OF COURSE.
.....

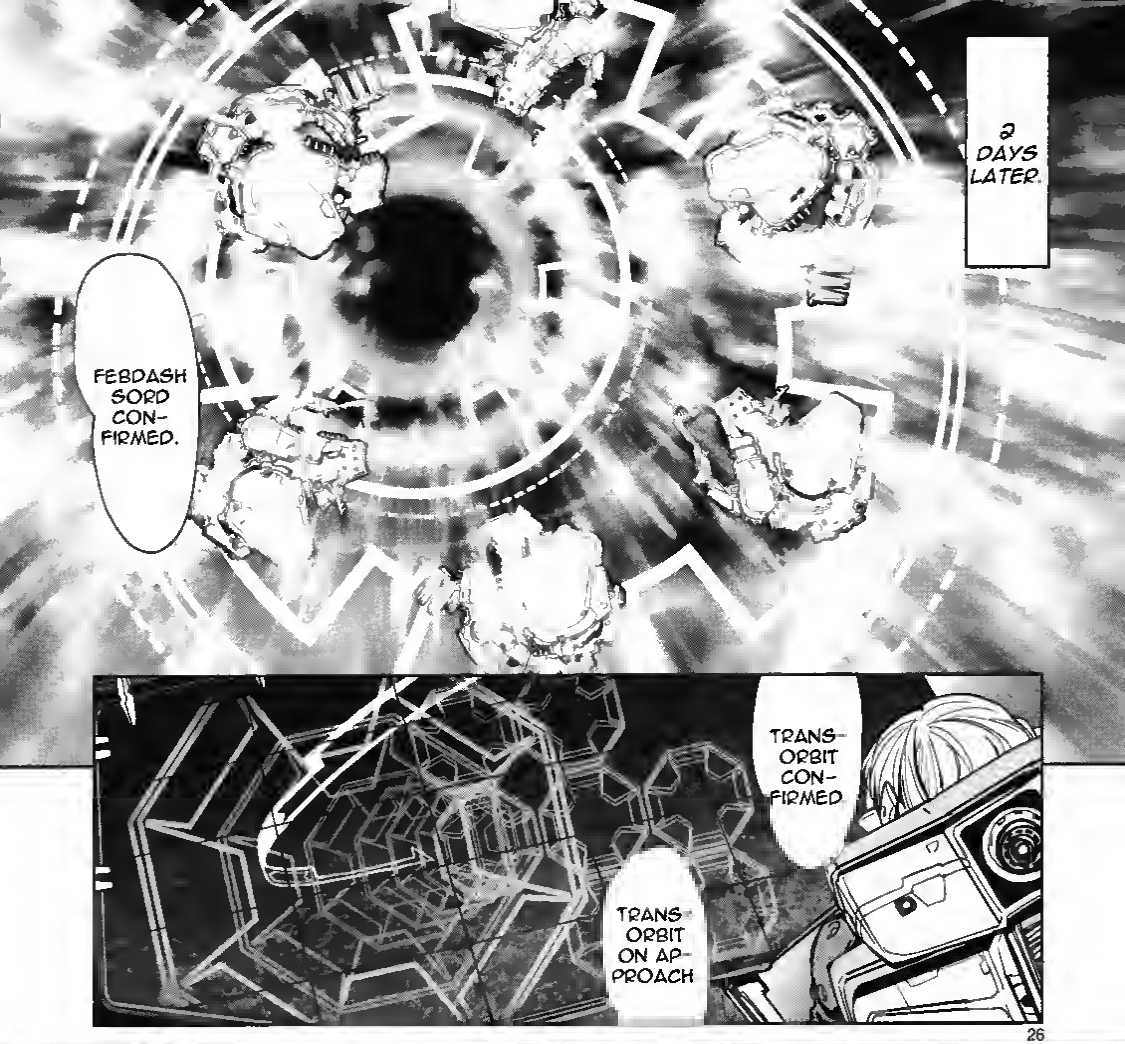
IF THAT TIME COMES,
YOU FORGET.
YOU WILL STILL HAVE A YOUTHFUL BODY THAT HAS ONLY AGED 10 YEARS.
HOW-EVER, WILL I
BE OLD?
OR DEAD ...?

IS THAT ALSO COMPLI-CATED?
VERY.
OF COURSE
IT'S LIKE THAT HUH.
LOVER TELL YOU IS BAD ETIQUETTE?
BUT RE-QUESTING OR HAVING THE KING OF KRYB'S
22
EVEN WITHOUT ASKING I UNDER-STOOD.
THE CAPTAIN USED TO COME TO THE ROYAL COURT A LOT.
WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM?
IT'S COMPLI-CATED.
SOMEHOW THIS IS UNPLEAS-ANT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, JINTO.

EVEN IF WE LEAVE THE PART OF THE GENE DONOR OUT, I STILL LIKE LADY PLAKIA.
EVEN IN THE PALACE, SHE WAS SOMEONE I ADMIRED AND EVEN MORE SO WHEN I WAS ON THE SHIP.
THE OTHER OFFICERS AND CREW MEMBERS AS WELL
I HOPE EVERY-ONE IS OKAY...
HOWEVER THERE WERE ALSO PEOPLE THAT I DIDN'T TAKE A LIKING TO.
YEAH.
THE ABH INVADED MY PLANET.
LOOKING FROM THE GROUND, THE ABH WERE TYRANNICAL INVADERS.
BUT AFTER GOING AROUND THE SHIP, MY THOUGHTS CHANGED AS EACH AND EVERY ONE

AT THE VERY LEAST, I DON'T HAVE A REASON TO WISH FOR THEIR DEATH.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT MY PREJUDICE WAS ERASED.
WERE GOOD PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF THE POLICY OF THE INTERSTELLAR COUNTRY
24
JINTO.
WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR HOMETOWN?

A-AH.
THAT'S AN EASY REQUEST.
25
WHERE SHOULD I START FROM?
UNLIKE YOUR TERRITORY.
I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO SAY...

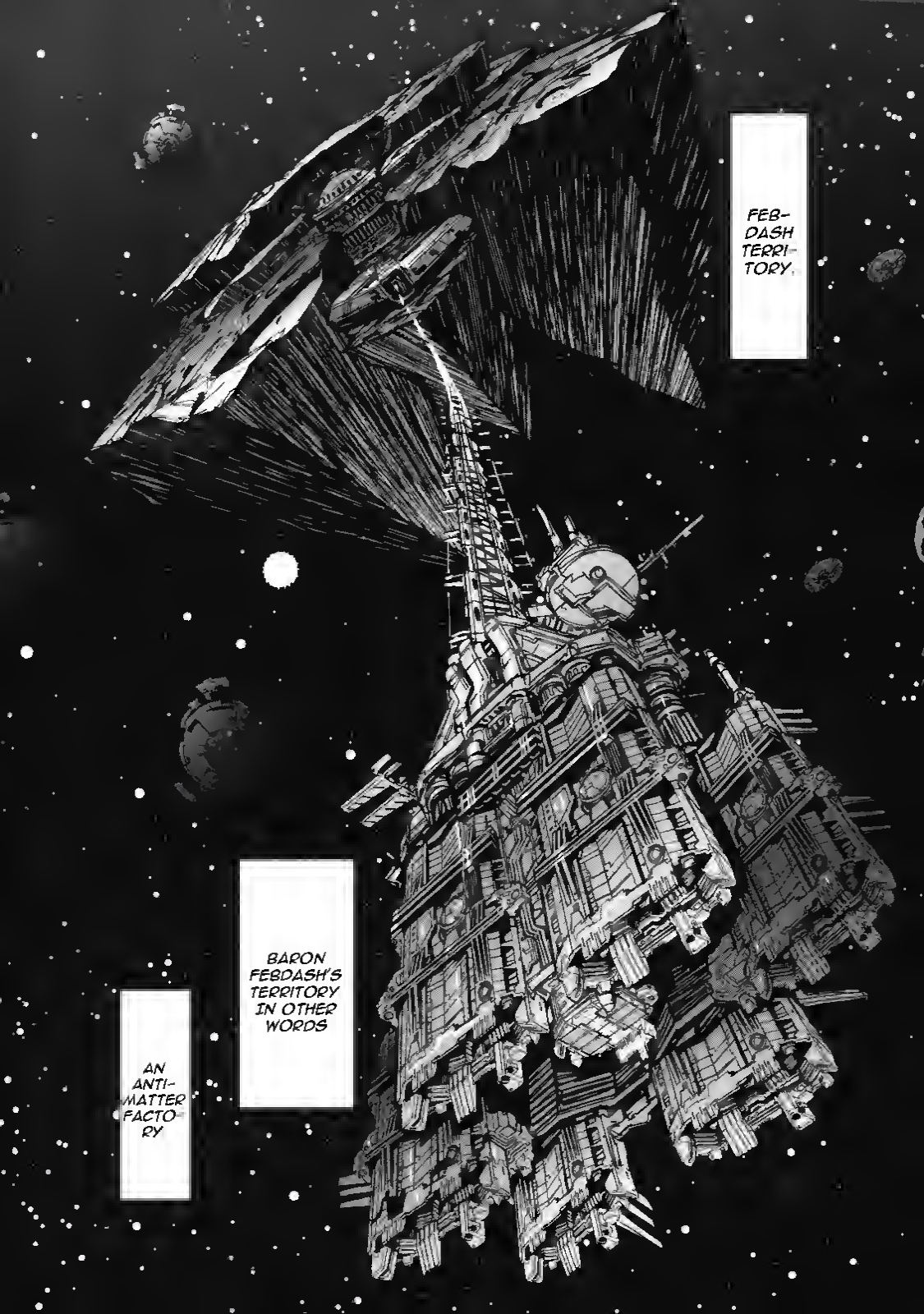

2 DAYS LATER.
FEBDASH SORD CONFIRMED.
TRANS-ORBIT CONFIRMED
TRANS-ORBIT ON APPROACH

GOING THROUGH THE FEBDASH SORD

GOING THROUGH THE FEB-DASH SORD.
CON-FIRMED.
SHUTTING DOWN SPACE-TIME BUBBLE GENERA-TOR.
CON-FIRMED.
RETURN-ING TO NORMAL SPACE.

COULD YOU SHOW AN IMAGE OF THE OUTSIDE LAFIEL?
SURE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THE STARS WERE THIS COM-FORTING.


FEB-DASH TERRI-TORY.
BARON FEBDASH'S TERRITORY IN OTHER WORDS
AN ANTI-MATTER FACTO-RY

C
08

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